

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 22, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs Alexander Graham Bell to Dr Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks Sunday May 22nd. 1898. My dear Alec:

I had another nice long letter from you this afternoon. I cannot however understand your objection to putting "Dear Mabel" at the head. You know perfectly well when you are writing that you are writing to me. I don't see any material difference between "for" or "to" in this case. I am glad your dream turned out so well. Generally when people drop from a great height in dreams they wake up. I dreamt the other night that I was out some where in the twilight when I looked up and saw first Mr. McCurdy and then Mr. and Mrs. Kennan come flying down from the darkness like bats. Mrs Kennan then went up again and showed me how she did it, just folding her arms and holding herself straight out and moving her hands slightly like fishes fins I was so jealous I couldn't do that, that I sprang on the top of an electric stage coach and rushed all around the square guiding the coach by long iron rods attached to the overhead trolley.

I am glad the fire engine worked so well, have you tried the inside fire hose? Maggie and the new girl as well as Duncan should be trained to rush to the different interior hose.

I must say I am sorry Mr. Ellis has come I notice there is no further record of mountain walks. Please don't let him keep you from walking all over the place. I want you to look at two springs Mr. McInnis knows of and which he thinks would keep the reservoir full at all times. Then he reports the dam at the lower reservoir needs repairing. Please see about it.

Please see what can be done about the field mice, I am quite willing to have cats out doors, but I really wish you would not have them inside for they are really not clean so far

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as the floors are 2 concerned. I never could have the rugs down on Beckie's account, they are very expensive, please don't endanger them for cats.

The engagement is announced this morning of Miss Tisdell to — charge d'affaires of Russia here. Elsie says it's a case of Beauty and the Beast, no one not even the Russian can see what she finds in him. He is little and mean and jealous, not clever and not of especially good family or means. Mr Zelenoy, now — he would be a conquest to be proud of, but Elsie thinks she could get him if she wished. Mr. Lindsley is outside with her now and I dislike him and fear she likes him. I understand that he is popular with Society women and not popular with men, that he is a fortune hunter. Elsie thinks he is misjudged. He is clever and good looking and she is tired of Mr. Totten and Mr. Powell is now presumably casting down the shore in charge of a Naval collier for Key West and Mr Chapman away,

Ever Yours,